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Perfette et al.

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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR A WINE AERATION APPARATUS**

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B01F 3/04 (2006.01)

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CPC ***B01F 3/04794*** (2013.01); ***B01F 3/0473*** (2013.01); *B01F 2215/0072* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A47G 2400/045; B01F 3/04794; B01F 3/0473; B01F 2215/0072
See application file for complete search history.

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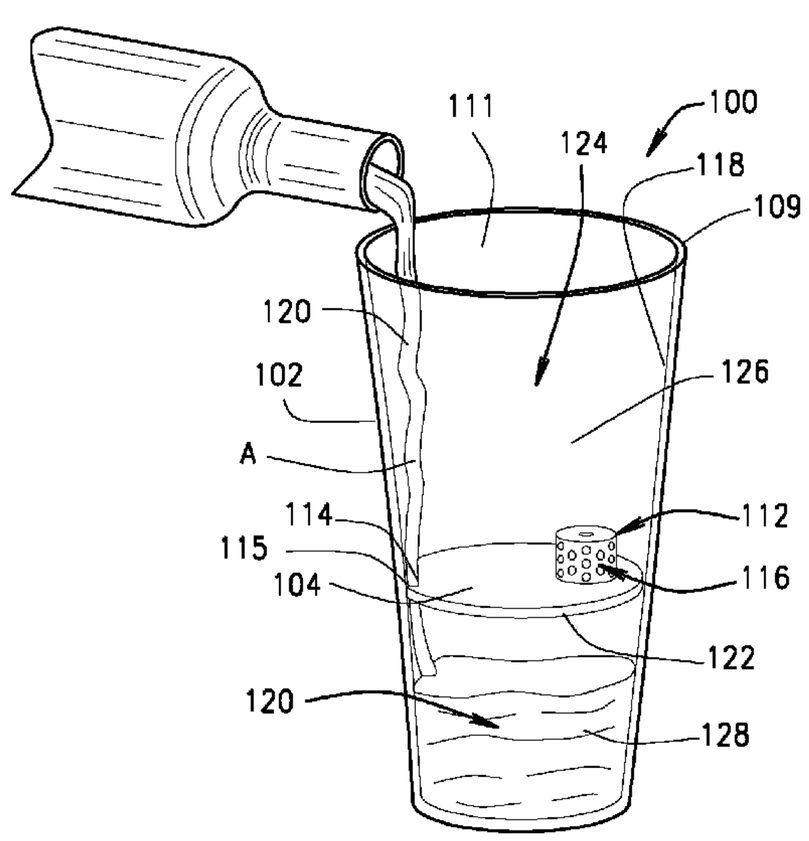
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Polsinelli PC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments of an aerator apparatus having an aerator insert disposed within a container, such as a glass, are disclosed.

11 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



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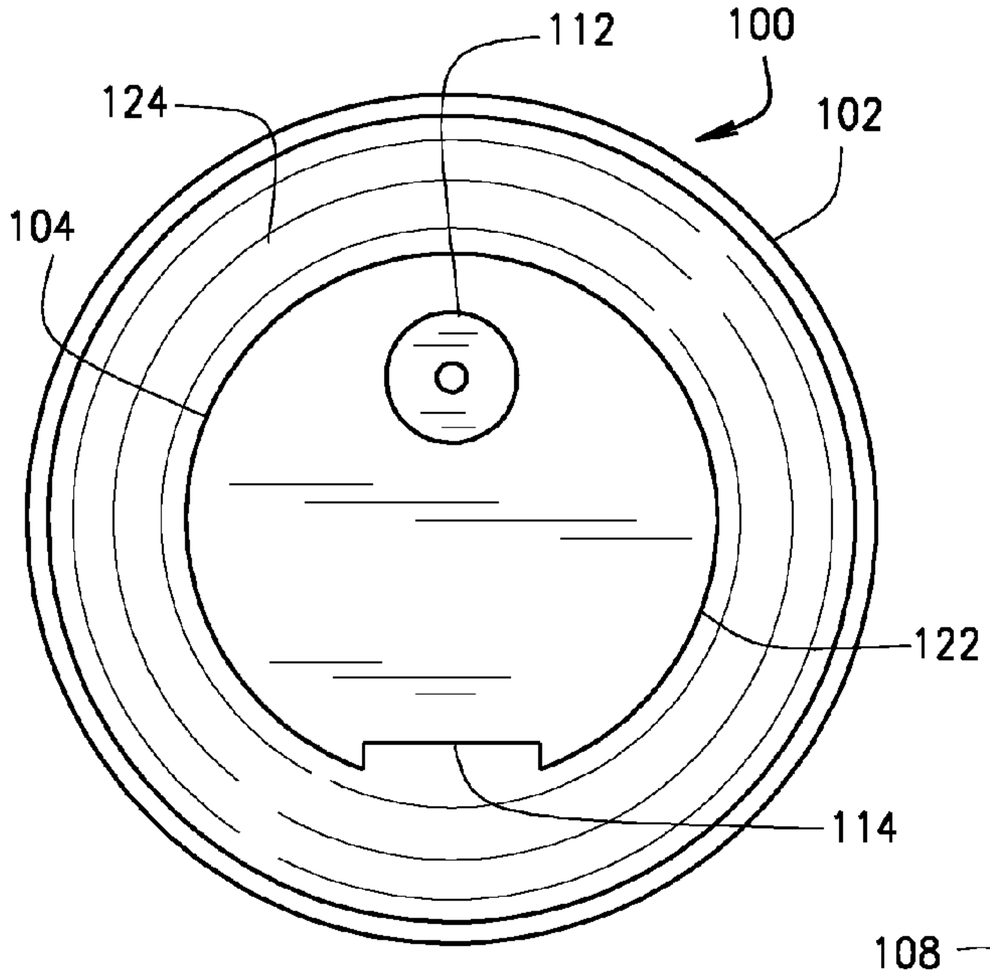


FIG. 1

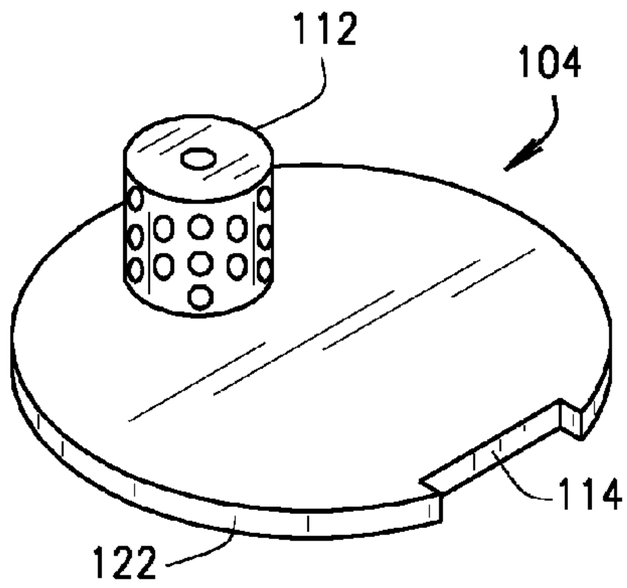


FIG. 2

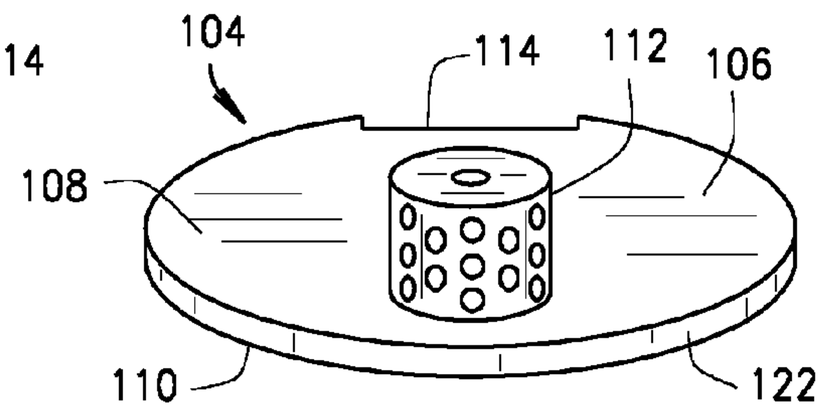


FIG. 3

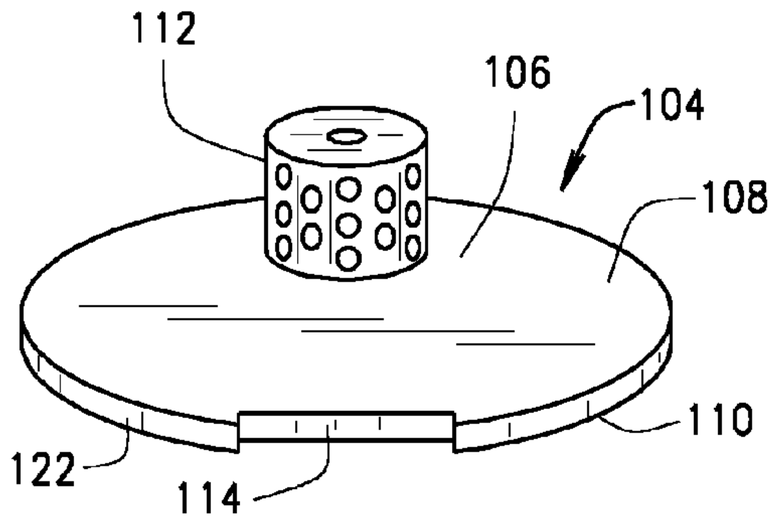


FIG. 4

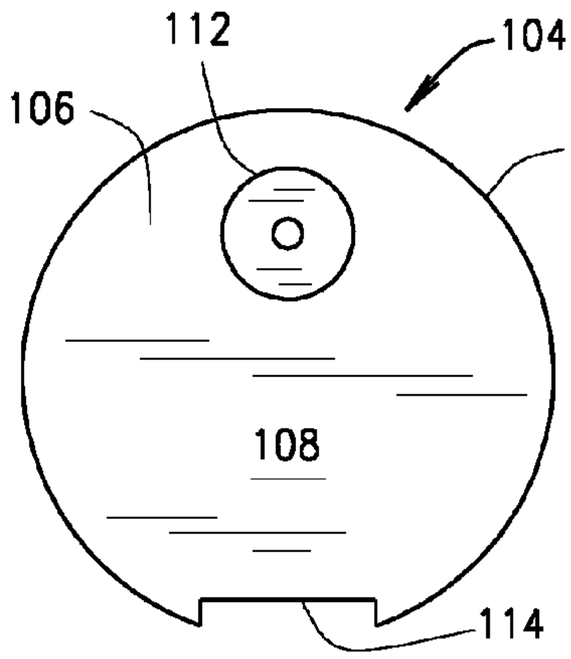


FIG. 5

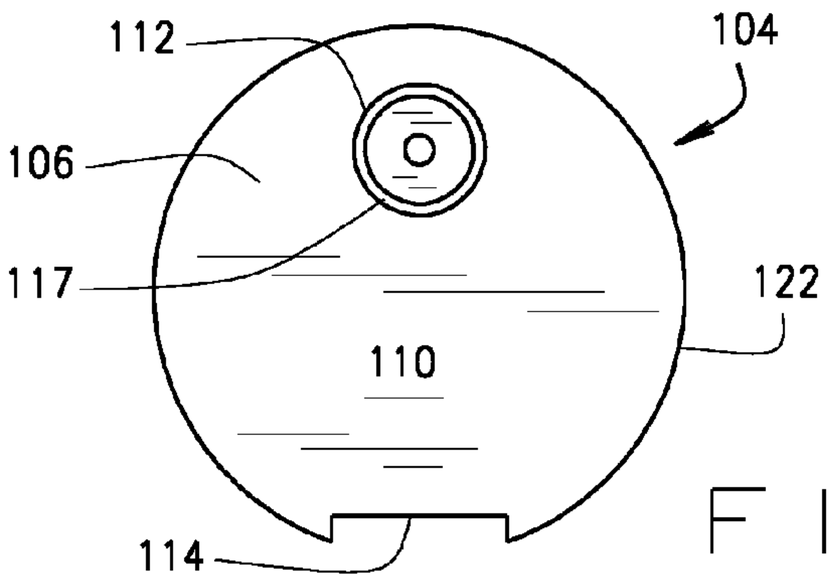
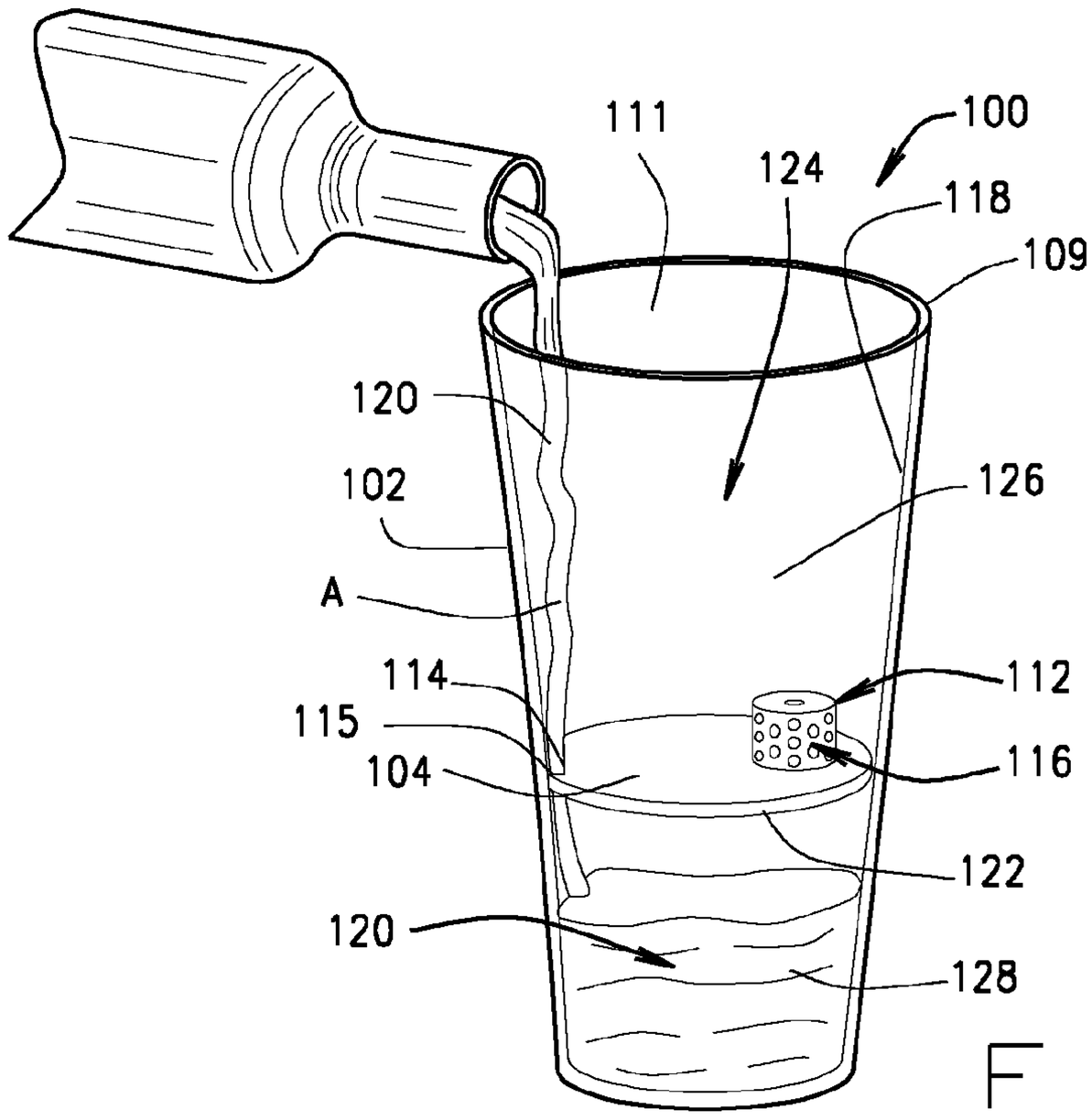


FIG. 6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128

FIG. 7

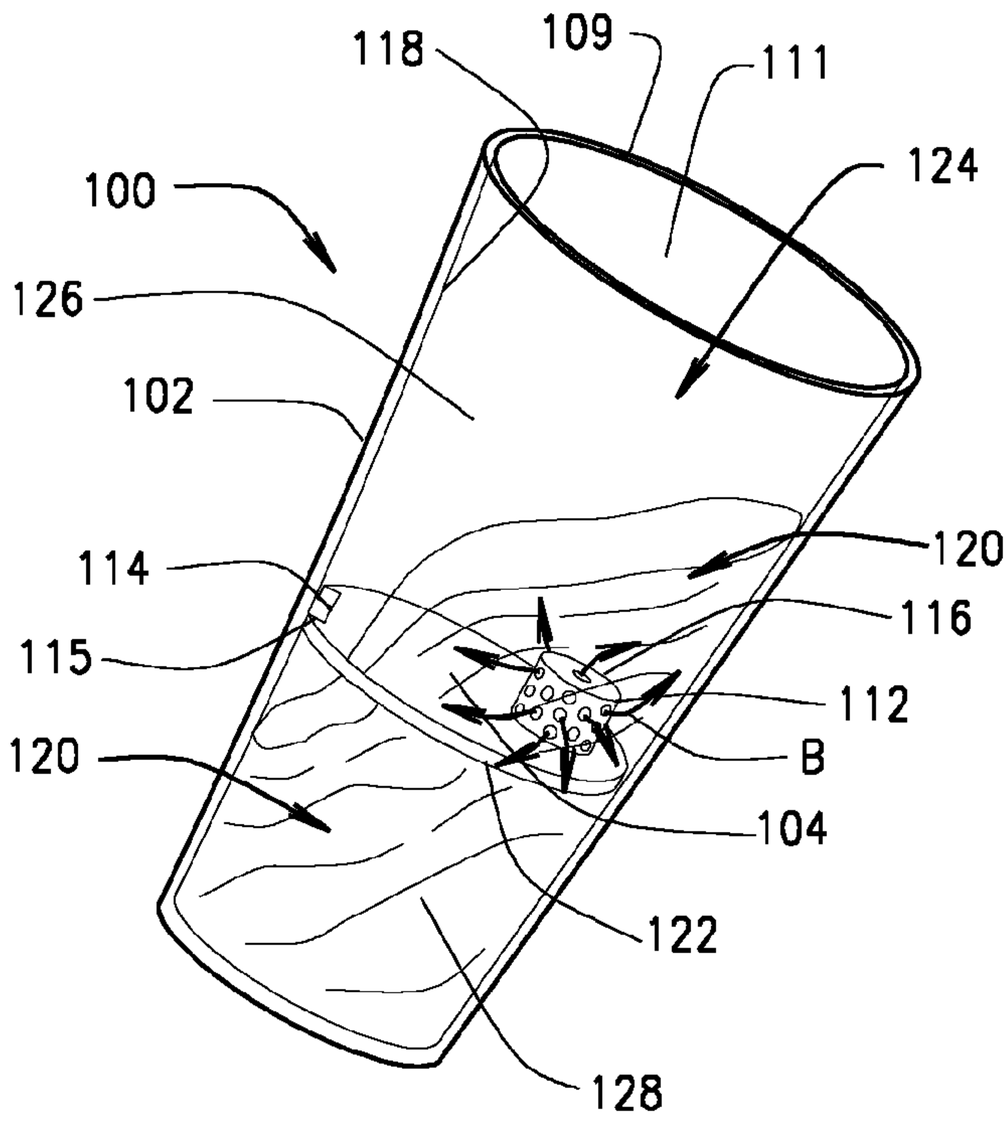
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FIG. 8

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR A WINE AERATION APPARATUS

FIELD

The present document relates to a system for aerating wine, and in particular to systems and method for a wine aeration apparatus having a glass with an aeration insert disposed therein for aerating wine.

Wine is an alcohol beverage made from fermented grapes or other kinds of fruit. Wine tasting is a sensory examination and evaluation of wine. Prior to tasting wine, certain wines can benefit from being aerated by either decanting the wine or aerating the wine using a wine accessory. During aeration, a younger wine's exposure to air often "relaxes" the drink, thereby making it smoother and better integrated in aroma, texture, and flavor. In particular, wine accessories that conveniently aerate wine may be desired in the absence of a decanter or more expensive wine accessory. As such, there is a need in improvements in wine accessories, such as aeration apparatuses, that allow for convenient aeration of wine without a decanter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a top view of one embodiment for a wine aeration apparatus having a glass with an aeration insert disposed within the glass for allowing wine to be aerated when the glass is tiled at an angle;

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the aeration insert shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a side view of the aeration insert of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **4** is an opposing side view of the aeration insert shown in FIG. **3**;

FIG. **5** is a top view of the aeration insert of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **6** is a bottom view of the aeration insert of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **7** is a side view of the wine aeration apparatus of FIG. **1** illustrating wine being poured through the aeration insert; and

FIG. **8** is a side view of the wine aeration apparatus of FIG. **7** illustrating the poured wine being aerated through the aeration insert.

Corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding elements among the view of the drawings. The headings used in the figures do not limit the scope of the claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments of a wine aeration apparatus comprising a glass with an aeration insert disposed within the glass for aerating wine are described herein. The aeration insert may have an aeration body that is configured to be inserted into the glass and retained therein for allowing wine to be aerated when being poured out from the glass. Referring to the drawings, an embodiment of the wine aeration apparatus are illustrated and generally indicated as **100** in FIGS. **1-8**.

As shown in FIGS. **1**, **7** and **8**, one embodiment of the wine aeration apparatus **100** includes a glass **102** configured to receive an aeration insert **104** therein for aerating wine as shall be discussed in greater detail below. In some embodiments, the glass **102** may have a generally tapered glass body **107** that defines a peripheral lip **109** forming an opening **111**. In addition, the opening **111** is in communication with an interior surface **118** that forms an interior portion **124** configured to receive the aeration insert **104** such that the aeration insert **104** contacts the interior surface **118** of the glass **102**.

Referring to FIGS. **2-6**, the aeration insert **104** may have a generally circular-shaped insert body **106** configured to be inserted through the opening **111** of the glass **102**. The insert body **106** forms a top portion **108** and a bottom portion **110** with a peripheral edge **122** formed around the periphery of the aeration insert **104**.

Referring to FIG. **5**, the aerator insert **104** includes an aerator **112** that extends outwardly from the top portion **108** of the insert body **106**. The aerator **112** defines a plurality of apertures **116** that communicate with an inner portion **117** (FIG. **6**) formed by the aerator **112** as illustrated in FIGS. **3** and **4**. During aeration, the plurality of apertures **116** allows the wine to be aerated when the glass **102** is oriented at an angle that permits the wine to flow from the inner portion **117** to the top portion of the aerator insert **104**.

As shown in FIGS. **2** and **4-8**, the peripheral edge **122** of the aeration insert **104** defines a notch **114**. The notch **114** of the aeration insert **104** collectively forms an opening with the interior surface **118** of the glass **102**, which allows the flow of wine from the top interior portion **126** to the bottom interior portion **128** of the glass **102** as illustrated in FIG. **7**.

Referring to FIGS. **7** and **8**, the peripheral edge **122** of the aeration insert **104** is configured to contact the interior surface **118** of the glass **102** in a frictional engagement such that the aeration insert **104** is wedged tightly within the glass **102**. In some embodiments, peripheral edge **122** of the aeration insert **104** is engaged to the interior surface **118** of the glass **102** by an epoxy, a non-toxic FDA-approved silicone glue, or a tight frictional fit between the glass **102** and the aeration insert **104**. In other embodiments, the aeration insert **104** may be made integral with the glass **102** during manufacturing of the wine aeration apparatus **100**.

In some embodiments the glass **102** may have an interior surface **118** with a generally tapered configuration which allows the aeration insert **104** to be inserted into the interior portion **124** of the glass **102** until the peripheral edge **122** establishes a tight frictional contact with the interior surface **118** such that the aeration insert **104** is not easily dislodged. In some embodiments, the interior surface **118** may have a generally straight configuration, a curved configuration, a generally asymmetrical configuration, or a generally symmetrical configuration configured to engage the aeration insert **104**.

In one method of use, wine may be poured through the opening **115** of the aeration insert **104** as illustrated by fluid flow A in FIG. **7** and allowed to collect within the bottom interior portion **128** of the glass **122**. Once sufficient wine is collected, the glass **102** may be tipped at an angle such the collected wine flows from the bottom interior portion **128** and into the top interior portion **126** through the plurality of apertures **116** of the aerator **112** as indicated by fluid flow B in FIG. **8**. The action of the wine flowing through the plurality of apertures **116** aerates the wine as it enters the top interior portion **116** of the glass **102**. Once aerated, the wine may be poured into another glass or drank directly from the glass **102**.

In another method of use, the glass **102** may be tipped at an angle such that the poured wine collects within the top interior portion **126** of the glass **102** around the aerator **112** when poured into the glass **102**, thereby causing the wine to flow through the plurality of apertures **116** and into the bottom interior portion **128**. Once aerated, the wine may be poured either back through the aerator **112** or through the opening **115**.

It should be understood from the foregoing that, while particular embodiments have been illustrated and described, various modifications can be made thereto without departing

from the spirit and scope of the invention as will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and modifications are within the scope and teachings of this invention as defined in the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. An aerator insert comprising:

an insert body having a substantially round configuration, the insert body defining a top portion and an opposite bottom portion with a peripheral lip;

an aerator extending outwardly from the top portion of the insert body and defining an interior chamber, the aerator defining a plurality of apertures in communication with the interior chamber; and

an opening defined through the insert body,

wherein the opening is formed along the peripheral lip of the insert body, and

wherein the opening is discretely formed a predetermined distance from the aerator along the top portion of the insert body and separated from the aerator by a portion of the insert body,

wherein the aerator terminates along the top portion of the insert body.

2. The aerator insert of claim **1**, wherein the aerator is formed proximate the peripheral lip of the insert body.

3. The aerator insert of claim **1**, wherein the aerator defines an opening in communication with the interior chamber.

4. The aerator insert of claim **1**, wherein the opening defines a notch formed along the peripheral lip of the insert body.

5. An aerator apparatus comprising:

a glass defining an interior portion including a bottom interior portion and a top interior portion;

an aerator insert configured to be received within the interior portion of the glass between the bottom interior portion and the top interior portion of the glass, the aerator insert comprising:

an insert body having a substantially round configuration, the insert body defining a top portion and an opposite bottom portion with a peripheral lip;

an aerator extending outwardly from the top portion of the insert body such that the bottom interior portion of the glass is devoid of the aerator, the aerator defining an interior chamber and defining a plurality of apertures in communication with the interior chamber; and

an opening defined through the insert body, wherein the opening is formed along the peripheral lip of the insert body.

6. The aerator apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the aerator insert defines the top interior portion and the bottom interior portion within the interior portion of the glass.

7. The aerator apparatus of claim **6**, wherein the bottom interior portion is substantially enclosed and the top interior portion is in communication with an opening of the glass.

8. The aerator apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the aerator is formed proximate the peripheral lip of the insert body.

9. The aerator apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the aerator defines an opening in communication with the interior chamber.

10. The aerator apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the aerator insert is formed integral with the glass.

11. An aerator apparatus comprising:

a glass defining an interior portion including a bottom interior portion and a top interior portion;

an aerator insert configured to be received within the interior portion of the glass between the bottom interior portion and the top interior portion of the glass, the aerator insert comprising:

an insert body having a substantially round configuration, the insert body defining a top portion and an opposite bottom portion with a peripheral lip;

an aerator extending outwardly from the top portion of the insert body such that the bottom interior portion of the glass is devoid of the aerator, the aerator defining an interior chamber and defining a plurality of apertures in communication with the interior chamber; and

an opening defined through the insert body,

wherein the opening is formed opposite the aerator along the top portion of the insert body.

* * * * *